



# PLANE NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of SAN DIEGO COUNTY AIRPORTS



Corporate jet at the ready at Palomar.

## IMPROVED FACILITIES, CUSTOMER SERVICE, GOAL at PALOMAR

"We're moving Palomar Airport toward the 21st Century," says County Airports Director Peter Drinkwater. "In the end, it will be a much better place for everyone than it is today."

Drinkwater's talking about more than a facelift, more than cosmetics. He's referring to several projects either already underway or in the planning stages.

In January, the Board of Supervisors approved a lease with Palomar Airport Center, LLC (PAC) for a new restaurant. It will be built outside the aeronautical areas and will improve safety and security. Plans call for a 5,000 square foot two-story building designed to connect to a terminal building when it's constructed. The dining area will be on the second floor to allow for a view of airport operations. The ground floor will include counter space for existing aviation businesses.

PAC is also planning a new FBO development that will include port-a-ports, tie-downs, jet hangars and general aviation hangars. Construction on both projects will begin once the permitting process is complete.

Still in the works is new long-term parking on lots along Palomar Airport Road. Drinkwater says using that space will free the current long-term lot for other aviation uses.

## Spring Means Airport Events

Springtime brings out thousands of visitors for three airports in the San Diego County system: Fallbrook's Open House, Wings Over Gillespie and the Ramona Air Fair.

Held in conjunction with the community's Avocado Festival, the Fallbrook Airpark Open house was held this year on Sunday, April 25. The event featured flight demonstrations by remote controlled model aircraft, up close looks at ultra-lights and antique aircraft.

San Diego's salute to the military, especially the heroes of World War II, is Wings Over Gillespie, a three-day event at Gillespie Field. Sponsored by the Commemorative Air Force and hosted by County Airports, displays include historic military aircraft, booths with the men



and women who flew the aircraft, and memorabilia. This year the festivities were held April 30 to May 2.

One of the largest annual events sponsored by the County of San Diego is the Ramona Air Fair. Scheduled for June 26-27, the fair includes home-built, historic and experimental aircraft; food booths; fire fighting aircraft and other public safety equipment; and static displays by community groups.



Rendering of proposed restaurant facility at Palomar Airport.



## Young Eagles Spread Wings

Thirty young people got to fly during a Young Eagles Rally recently. Hosted by the Friends of the Fallbrook Community Airpark and members of Murrieta's Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), the biannual event unites youngsters and pilots for an interactive day of aviation instruction.

Under the supervision of event coordinators and with Fallbrook Community Airpark as their launching pad, each youth was taken on an individual 15–20 minute flight. The youths fly one at a time so they can sit in the front seat next to the pilot, learn to handle the controls and become fully involved in the flight process.

For more information about future events, contact Tom Wilson (760) 728-9062.



## GOOD NEWS STORIES

### Revenue Increases

Current revenue projections for fiscal year 04/05 show anticipated rental income estimated at \$7 million. This is up from \$5.6 million this time last year. The increase is due to recently completed agreements that brought all Palomar aviation leases to market rate, cost of living adjustments to all aviation leases at Gillespie Field, rental adjustment at the Gillespie Field Industrial Park, new agreements for all Ramona FBOs which include rent schedules to bring tenants to market over five years, new leases and hangar rentals at Borrego Valley Airport and new Aviation Leases at Fallbrook Airport.

### Gillespie Field Industrial Park Rental Adjustment

The five-year rental adjustment for the Gillespie Field Industrial Park was implemented on time, January 1, 2004. The 30 percent adjustment was calculated by working closely with the Assessors office and General Services using the Industrial Land Value Index. The resulting revenue increase is approximately \$345,000 annually. Due to the excellent background explanation provided to each tenant there were almost no questions or complaints.

## Request for Proposals for Trolley Corner

The County of San Diego, Airports Division, is soliciting proposals from qualified parties who may be interested in leasing and developing a 20,000+ (approximately) square foot parcel at the southeast corner of Cuyamaca and Marshall, El Cajon, California.

The parcel is located at the north end of the Weld Street Trolley Station. It is presently zoned "M," but is in a special district and may be approved for commercial use by the City of El Cajon. Any proposals based upon commercial use or uses not allowed under the present zoning should be discussed with the proper city officials.

Please contact Dave Turosak, Real Property Agent for the County of San Diego at (619) 956-4811 or e-mail [dave.turosak@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:dave.turosak@sdcounty.ca.gov) for more information regarding this Request for Proposals.

*This Request for Proposals does not commit the County to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of proposals, or to procure or contract for services or supplies. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals received as a result of the RFP, to negotiate with any qualified company, and modify or cancel in part or in its entirety this RFP if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the County.*

#### WINTER 2004

Plane News is published quarterly by the County of San Diego  
Department of Public Works  
5555 Overland Ave. (MS 0332)  
San Diego, CA 92123-1295

#### COUNTY AIRPORTS

Agua Caliente • Borrego  
Gillespie • Fallbrook  
Jacumba • McClellan-Palomar  
Ocotillo • Ramona

#### Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox  
Dianne Jacob  
Pam Slater-Price  
Ron Roberts  
Bill Horn

#### Chief Administrative Officer

Walt Ekard

#### Director of Public Works

John Snyder

#### Airports Director

Peter Drinkwater

#### Public Information Officer

Bill Polick  
Phone: (858) 495-5736  
E-mail: [bill.polick@co.san-diego.ca.us](mailto:bill.polick@co.san-diego.ca.us)

#### Production

DPW Cartographic Services Section  
Department of Public Works Web Site  
[www.sdcdpw.org](http://www.sdcdpw.org)

#### Airports Web Site

[www.sdcdpw.org/airports](http://www.sdcdpw.org/airports)

 Printed on recycled paper



## Warm Weather Means Time to Fly Friendly

It happens every year—noise complaints rise with the thermometer. That's because more airport neighbors have windows open and spend more time in their yards when warm weather arrives. They hear your aircraft more.

What to do? Follow noise abatement procedures wherever you fly. The complete list of those procedures for the eight San Diego County Airports is on the Internet at <http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/dpw/airports/noise.htm>.



*Cited for her outstanding service to Palomar Airport, Ramona Finnila (holding plaque) is surrounded by members of the Palomar Airport Advisory Committee.*



*Phyllis Trombi, President of Gillespie Pilots Association (GPA) presents plaque to Airports Director Pete Drinkwater on behalf of Gillespie Field and staff "for your dedicated volunteer efforts in Aviation Community Service. SEE CDF Base Camp Firestorm 2003."*



*Special recognition for their contribution at Gillespie Field goes to the ARC crew. Pictured (from left): Mike Carson (Airports Maintenance Supervisor), Rosa Acuña, Raquel Salazar, John Burbury, Dennis Nortin, Jeremy Keating (Airports Operations), and Charles Coe.*



*Thanks go to Gillespie Field users who helped with the emergency Fire Base during October's wildfires. Standing (from left): Peter Drinkwater, Howard Merritt, Dick McDowell, Vern Cagan, Bill Allen, Al Riker, Brett Black, Charlie Riker and Bob Parker. Kneeling (from left): Tim Connole, Doreen Connole, Gee Silberman, Le Ann Silberman, Phyllis Trombi, Rick Fordem, John Gibson, Jerry Hollingsworth and Steve Real.*

### Compass Points

## Solutions Not Always Easy

Sometimes important issues drop from the sky like spring rain. Each one different and each one important in the total scheme of things.


With dozens of projects proposed, planned and underway at our airports, it's not surprising that we use all our best skills to resolve problems and comply with thousands of local, state and federal regulations that govern our activities. It's our job to provide the best possible airports we can—airports that meet the needs of our users and our neighbors.

Gillespie Field provides an excellent example of how this works. In mid-November we received a compliance advisory notice from the FAA that brought forth long-standing concerns for us to address. These included lease agreements, airport development standards, aviation land use compliance and several other items. The full letter and our response is on the County Airports web site ([sdcdpw.org/airports](http://sdcdpw.org/airports)). Just click on "Gillespie Field Compliance Advisory" for all documentation.

As you know, we don't operate autonomously—we have rules to follow and are responsible for ensuring our operation is above board. That drives much of what we do.

With the understanding and assistance of airport users, those who want to develop airport facilities, elected officials, government agencies, our neighbors and the general public, we can continue providing facilities of which we can all be proud and that will serve our communities effectively.

Safe flying,

  
Peter Drinkwater,  
Airports Director

# Calendar

## GILLESPIE FIELD (SEE)

**Gillespie Field Development Council:** Meets third Tuesday of each month. All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held in the El Cajon City Council Chambers, 200 East Main Street, El Cajon. For more information, call (619) 956-4800.

**Search, Call, Acknowledge & Notice (SCAN) Training:** This safety program for drivers accessing Gillespie Field's aircraft maneuver and operations area is offered by appointment. For more information, call the Tower at (619) 488-1449 or Gillespie Field Manager Noreen Crane at (619) 956-4800.

**Civil Air Patrol Squadron 57 Composite Squadron:** Meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Ketema Aerospace, 790 Greenfield Drive, El Cajon. Info – Captain Tom Charpentier, (619) 818-4011.

**Civil Air Patrol Squadron 55 (Cadets):** Meets Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the San Diego Aerospace Museum hangar, 335 Kenney Street, El Cajon. Info – Major Dave Bowles, (619) 443-5849.

**El Cajon Valley Chapter of 99's:** This women's flying group meets the first Monday of each month. For information or location and meeting time, call Frankie Clemens at (619) 449-0670.

**Commemorative Air Force (CAF):** Please inquire at (619) 448-4505 for tour information or for information on becoming a member of the CAF, which is located at 1850 Joe Crosson Drive, El Cajon.

**Aerospace Museum:** The San Diego Aerospace Museum hangar at Gillespie Field is open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (619) 258-1221 for tour information.

**The Wing is the Thing (T.W.I.T.T.):** Bimonthly meetings are held the third Sunday of odd-numbered months (January, March, etc.) at 1:30 p.m., Skid Row Hangar A4. For more information, please leave a message at (619) 224-1497. Web site: <http://members.cox.net/twitt>.

**Gillespie Pilots Association:** Meets third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m., Gillespie Field Administration Building. For more information, call (619) 807-5178. E-mail: [gpa@gillespiepilots.org](mailto:gpa@gillespiepilots.org).

**Display your antique or classic airplanes:** 1 to 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at the Gillespie Field Administration Building's Transient Ramp, 1960 Joe Crosson Drive, El Cajon. The public may view and photograph the aircraft from the patio area on the west side of the Administration Building. For information call (619) 956-4800.

**Antique Airplane Association:** Meets quarterly on the third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at various locations at Gillespie Field. For information and meeting locations, call Bob Blanchard (858) 536-7719. Web site: [www.aaa-atm.org](http://www.aaa-atm.org).

**Classic & Vintage Aircraft Display:** The second Sunday of each month from 1 to 2 p.m., Classic Hangars will be hosting an aircraft display. If you have an aircraft and would like it to be displayed, contact Len Buckel at (619) 449-0539. Classic Hangars is located at Gillespie Field on 305 Kenney Street in El Cajon.

**Gillespie Field Eagles** is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing aviation training to high school youth. Meets first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m., 1987 North Marshall Avenue, Suite #109. For more information, contact Vincent Ammann at (619) 675-4570. Web site: [www.gillespiefieldeagles.com](http://www.gillespiefieldeagles.com). E-mail: [vincent@gillespiefieldeagles.com](mailto:vincent@gillespiefieldeagles.com).

## McCLELLAN-PALOMAR AIRPORT (CRQ)

**Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 286 (North County):** Meets first Thursday of each month, 7 p.m. in the ARFF hangar at

McClellan-Palomar Airport, 2188 Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad. Call Bob Wilson at (760) 489-9031 for more information.

**McClellan-Palomar Airport Advisory Committee (PAAC):** Meets third Thursday of each month. All meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad. For more information, call (760) 431-4646, x5.

**Palomar Chapter of 99's:** This women's flying group meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. at Mission West Properties, 2006 Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad. For more information, contact Robin Gartman at (760) 931-0546.

**Palomar Airport Pilot Briefings:** Have been discontinued until further notice.

## FALLBROOK AIRPARK (L18)

**Civil Air Patrol Squadron 87:** For seniors and cadets. For more information, please contact Will Gordon at (760) 728-9568.

**Coyote Country Chapter of the 99's:** Meets the third Tuesday of each month. Time and location varies. For more information, contact Chairwoman Beth Cobb at (760) 723-1940.

**Display your antique or classic airplanes:** Last Sunday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The displays will be located on the transient ramp. The public is invited to visit and owners of antique aircraft from other airports are welcome to display their aircraft. Contact Willie Vasquez at (760) 723-8395 for information.

## JACUMBA AIRPORT (L78)

**Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California:** These sailplane enthusiasts meet at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of every month in the Automotive Museum (north door) in Balboa Park. Call (619) 338-1638 for more information.

## BORREGO VALLEY AIRPORT (LO8)

**Borrego Springs Chapter of 99's:** This women's flying group meets the second Saturday of each month, 10:30 a.m., at the Borrego Valley Airport. Call Louise Phillips at (760) 767-4378 for more information.

**Display your antique or classic airplanes:** 1 to 2 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month. Contact Viki Cole for more information at (760) 767-7417.

## RAMONA (RNM)

**International Aerobatic Club:** Meetings held the second Saturday of each month at Chuck Hall Aviation at 10 a.m. For more information, call Club President George Eaton at (619) 755-5042 or Finn Jensen at (760) 789-3047.

**Display your antique or classic airplanes:** 1 to 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month at Chuck Hall Aviation, Cruiseair Aviation and Pacific Executive Aviation. For more information call Chuck Hall Aviation at (619) 789-8178, Cruiseair Aviation at (619) 789-8020 or Pacific Executive Aviation at (619) 789-6384.

# PLANE NEWS

- ☐ Please send my free subscription to *Plane News* to the address below.
- ☐ Please discontinue my subscription to *Plane News*.
- ☐ Please change my mailing address.

**DPW COMMUNICATIONS SECTION (MS O-332)**  
**Department of Public Works, Bldg. 2**  
**5555 Overland Ave., San Diego, CA 92123-1295**

Name

Address

City / State / Zip

Airport affiliation, if any

# Ramona Tower Grand Opening

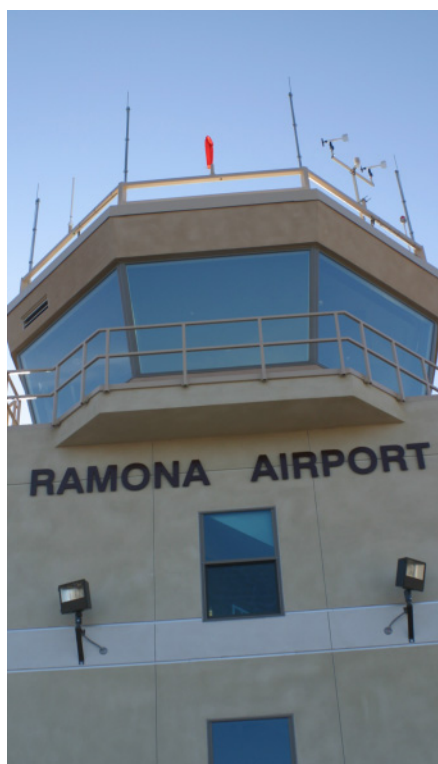
"Cessna three-five Charlie, this is Ramona Tower..."

There's a new sound at Ramona Airport these days. It comes from a brand new air traffic control tower.

Tower construction is complete and the new facility was commissioned January 7. The tower was built to enhance safety at Ramona and construction for the \$1.5 million project began in April 2003. The new 1,800 square foot facility stands four stories high and is fully equipped with the latest telecommunications and meteorological equipment. The airport manager's office and conference room are also located in the tower facility.

County Supervisor Dianne Jacob joined other dignitaries for the tower's opening in early December and visitors toured the facility, checked out aircraft displays and enjoyed a pancake breakfast, hosted by Ramona Air Fair Non-profit, Inc.

Ramona Airport is home to 200 aircraft, in addition to the Air Attack Base for the California Department of Forestry and the U.S Forest Service. With nearly 100,000 operations in 2003, it's the third busiest facility in the County's eight-airport system.



Ramona's new tower.

## — Tower hours —

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
7 days a week

## — Frequencies —

Ground ..... 121.65  
Local ..... 119.875  
ATIS/ASOS ... 132.025



Supervisor Dianne Jacob cuts the ribbon with ceremony attendees.



Diners at the pancake breakfast.



Visitors in the "cab."

## Tail Section

by Plane News Staff

In January 2004, financial services staff implemented an electronic process for requesting FAA grant reimbursement. Funds are transferred to the Airport Enterprise Fund within days of the request rather than having to wait weeks or months to receive reimbursement...The first *Airports Oracle* online requisition was approved in March...Due to the teamwork of **Jeremy Keating**, **Dennis Seevers** and **George Kalin**, a major storm water problem was resolved. They took corrective actions to prevent the run off from the *Border Patrol* parking facility from causing a violation. We are now in 100 percent compliance with all safety-related concerns as they pertain to *Gillespie Field Maintenance*. Staff has all tools and equipment needed for a safe maintenance operation...The addition of engineer **Eric Nelson** has given staff new insight as it relates to

engineering and design of projects and construction. This has translated into better communication and production... New staffers at Airports: **Nickie Jones** who comes from the DPW Land Development Division and **Lourdes Barnes** transferred from *DPW Environmental Services*. Jones works in *Real Property* and Barnes joins the *Fiscal* section...Ramona's new tower is now a Federal Contract Tower. The *FAA* will contract out these services directly and *SERCO*, the contractor originally hired by *County Airports* is the designated FAA contractor and the change will be transparent to the pilots and the users as the same air traffic controllers and their management will remain. Any concerns that any of our pilots and users have regarding the operation of the *Ramona ATCT* should go directly to the Ramona Tower Chief, **Jack Ruley**, at (760) 789-4073.



## Airport Compliance Inspections Underway

Gillespie Field Airport management continues its frequent inspections of County airport leaseholds to comply with Federal Aviation Regulations.

Non-Aviation use activities that are not permitted on County property will be noted on a form letter and provided to the master lessees. These notices will be distributed to tenants if they are responsible for an unpermitted use of County premises. If you receive one of these form letters and are the source of the noted violation, note that these letters are not meant to be adversarial, but are fulfilling the County's obligation to provide the safest airport for aviation and industrial users of Gillespie Field.

# PLANENEWS

**DPW** County of San Diego Department of Public Works

5555 Overland Ave. (MS O332) • San Diego, CA 92123-1295

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit #571  
San Diego, CA